

Now is the time for us to think together over the long term how we renew those institutions.”

Like BEN SASSE, I am optimistic that we can do just that.

It has been such an honor to serve with Senator SASSE. I am grateful for his efforts to strengthen our institutions, elevate our national discourse, and bring people together while recognizing that we are always going to have vigorous debates on the proper path forward for our Nation.

I have learned so much from him.

In a recent column, BEN wrote that “America was the best home freedom has ever had, and it still is. Let’s build together anew.”

I know that BEN SASSE will continue to build toward this bright future when he leaves the Senate. I wish him, Melissa, and their family all the best in this next chapter of their lives.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

118TH CONGRESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, for many of us, this day has been special. It has been a day to welcome new Members. For some like myself who have been around for a few years, it was good to commence yet another term of service to our States and to our country and the people we serve. So it is good to be back doing the work of the people.

I just wanted to take a small moment. I have taken some family and some friends around the Capitol on a little bit of a historical tour today, and it reminds me of the extraordinary opportunity that we have to serve and how often we take for granted the surroundings that we work in and the people we work with, those who support us.

I would like to give special thanks and appreciation to the staff who keep this Capitol moving and going, whether they are those who are taking the log, the pages who serve us, the Parliamentarians, the staffs on both sides, the janitors, the cloakroom people—all those who make our day-to-day operations just a little bit better.

As we commence a new year and a new term and the 118th Congress, know that we all extend our thanks and our gratitude.

We all serve in different ways and different capacities, and taking just a moment to show appreciation for that is something that is important.

I am extraordinarily honored to be here on a good day hopefully for the Senate and for the country.

I yield the floor, and I thank you all for your service. Happy New Year.

TRIBUTE TO MARCY KAPTUR

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, on the first day of the Senate, the Presiding Officer and I had the honor today of escorting the—I guess we call him a second-term Senator now from Georgia, Senator WARNOCK. He was elected once to a 2-year term, now to a 6-year term, and he chose Senator Kaine and me to walk him down the aisle, which is an honor that I consider a great honor. I think my friend from Virginia does too. And I know he can’t respond sitting in the Presiding Officer’s chair, so a nod would be good enough. Thank you.

I rise today to recognize and honor my long, longtime friend, fellow Ohioan colleague, Representative MARCY KAPTUR from Toledo.

For 30 years, I have had the privilege of working alongside MARCY when I was a Member of the House and now representing Ohio as the senior Senator from the State. And for 40 years, MARCY has dedicated her life to serving the people of Toledo and Northwest Ohio. And, actually, her district—when one particularly egregious map of redistricting sent her all the way to Cleveland, she represented all along Lake Erie there and did it so well.

She is a passionate, principled advocate for the Ohioans whom she serves.

Today—today, starting with whatever bedlam is happening straight down the hall in the House of Representatives, today MARCY KAPTUR is beginning the first day of her 41st year in the Congress.

No woman in the history of this country has served in the House or the Senate or the House and Senate combined more than 40 years. I believe Barbara Mikulski, who we saw earlier today, House Member for years—House Member, I believe, 10 years; Senator for 30 years—she escorted Senator VAN HOLLEN down the aisle today, along with Senator CARDIN. She—MARCY—broke the record of those 40 years that Senator Mikulski served.

Marcy is the granddaughter of Polish immigrants. She comes from a working-class, Catholic family. Her father was a trucker and an autoworker, small businessman. Her mother worked at the Champion spark plug factory, which—of course she did—she helped organize workers to form a union.

MARCY’s story echoes that of so many of her generation. Her parents worked hard and, with the help of that union card, earned their way to a better life for their children.

MARCY was the first in her family to graduate from high school, then the first in her family to graduate from college. MARCY KAPTUR never forgot those roots, from her work for Ohio’s Polish and Ukrainian communities to her championing of all Ohio workers—blue-collar, white-collar, African-American, Latino, Asian—workers, regardless whether they punched a clock or swiped a badge or worked for tips.

Unemployment reached almost 20 percent in Toledo in the early eighties

when she first ran for office. She said this:

[It was] the condition of working people that drove me to change my life and run for office.

She has lived up to that ideal, fighting for working families in Ohio. Every day she has served in Congress, she stood up for Americans. She stood up to corporate interests over and over through her whole career.

MARCY and I worked together—my first year in the House; her, I believe, 11th year in the House—fighting against the North American Free Trade Agreement because we knew it would cause job loss across Ohio and around this country. Unfortunately, time has proved that right. And since then, as MARCY and I have fought trade deal after bad trade deal after bad trade deal, she has been an ally, a leader in that fight for a trade policy that puts workers first—not corporate interests, not stock portfolios, not rich people first—put workers and small businesses first.

That fight has paid off. This year, with a new President and a new Senate; we passed the CHIPS Act; we passed the Inflation Reduction Act; we passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. We passed the strongest buy-America language ever in Federal legislation, bringing supply chains home, creating an economy that puts American workers, American jobs, American production first. It is Intel in Columbus; it is First Solar in Wood County, up MARCY’s way.

We worked together to protect Ohio’s greatest natural resource, Lake Erie. Our economy couldn’t function without it.

My favorite piece of trivia about Lake Erie—five Great Lakes, Lake Erie is the smallest, the shallowest. The shallowest is 30 feet in the western basin. Of all the Great Lakes, Lake Erie has 2 percent of the water but 50 percent of the fish. Lake Superior has 50 percent of the water and 2 percent of the fish. That is why keeping Lake Erie is so important to my State, so important to the environment, so important to marine life and all that suggests.

MARCY has been a leader in veterans’ issues too. She wrote and introduced the legislation designating the World War II Memorial, and I am grateful for all she has done for veterans. She has been a real role model for a lot of us.

Over the summer, we passed the PACT Act to ensure that veterans exposed to toxic substances, those football field-sized burn pits—especially in Iraq and Afghanistan—that so many soldiers, so many of our service men and women were exposed to—we passed the PACT Act so they will get the kind of coverage they need. MARCY KAPTUR was there for that.

A few weeks ago, we announced the restoration of the pensions of hundreds of Toledo union roofers made possible by our Butch Lewis Act. It took years of fighting; we got it done. Now hundreds of thousands—literally a million

workers around the country—100,000 in Ohio—can breathe easier knowing the pensions they were promised, they earned at the bargaining table—they gave up wages today so that they could put money aside for those pensions—that those pensions are protected.

We secured more than \$180 million in funding for Ohio to make a difference for communities across Ohio.

She has gone to bat time and again for the American auto industry. Never bet against American workers and the American auto industry. That is what MARCY is all about.

And look how that fight pays off. We make Ohio workers the future of the auto industry. GM's recent investment in Toledo, Honda's investment near Columbus—none would have been possible without MARCY. That scrappy, fighting spirit is one of the qualities I love most about my State, the workers in my State. You see it in abundance in Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR. No one fights harder for Northwest Ohio—no one.

You can see the love and respect folks have for MARCY everywhere you go. I remember going to a rally in Toledo for President Obama. People were excited to see him. I guess a few people may have noticed I was there too; but what I really noticed was when MARCY walked in, someone screamed "MARCY," and it was pandemonium. Everyone got to their feet like a rock star had just taken the stage, because in Toledo, she is a rock star. She is a fighter for the people of my State. She is a fighter for women in her district, in Congress, and all over the country.

When she first joined the House—think back to this—there were fewer than two dozen women serving in Congress just 40 years ago. She helped blaze a trail for so many women, even told the stories of the women who paved the way in her book: *Women of Congress, a 20th Century Odyssey*. Frankly, not a very long book when she wrote it. It would be an increasingly expansive volume today.

Having MARCY in Congress matters for so many reasons. It matters for the perspective she brings, especially as the daughter of working-class parents in our industrial heartland.

It matters for little girls in Toledo, who, for 40 years, have looked at pictures of their Representative in the local news and not seen another guy in a suit but someone who looks more like them, someone they could grow up to be.

To MARCY KAPTUR—I know she is still sitting in the House as they are trying to elect a Speaker. I don't pretend to understand the complexities of that, but as she does that, I just say: MARCY, thank you for your service to Ohio. Thank you for your service to workers. I hope we get to keep working with you for years into the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The Senator from Virginia.

REMEMBERING VIRGINIA "JINKS" ROGERS HOLTON

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I could only nod as you earlier referenced how proud we both were to escort Senator WARNOCK up for his oath of office today, but now I will say that is definitely the case. It is truly an honor to be asked to do that, and I am proud that we did that together.

Your speech on behalf of your friend, the great public servant MARCY KAPTUR, just inspired me to stand up and give a speech about a great Virginia woman who passed right before we went into recess, my mother-in-law, Virginia Rogers Holton, who passed away in December. We are gathering the entire family in Kilmarnock, VA, this Saturday for her funeral at Grace Episcopal Church, and I want to just talk about my mother-in-law because she was an amazing woman and an amazing public servant.

Jinks Holton—she was called Jinks because her name Virginia was too complicated for her sister Anne to pronounce, and so from her earliest days she was Jinks Holton. She was born in Roanoke in 1925.

In World War I, she graduated from high school at 16 years of age. And it was a little bit rare at the time, from Roanoke, to go to Wellesley, but she did, starting in the class of 1941.

My mother-in-law Virginia "Jinks" had such an Appalachian accent that at Wellesley, they insisted that she take elocution lessons to be able to succeed in this sort of Ivy League quality school.

Well, the joke was on Wellesley because my mother-in-law took elocution lessons but then became a language major and by the time she graduated in 1945, was fluent in French, was fluent in German, could speak Spanish, Italian, and a little bit of Russian.

And so what does a talented woman with a degree in languages do at that point? She decided to serve her country.

She went to New York and went to an institute where she learned to take shorthand in multiple languages, and then she got a job offer from the CIG, the Central Intelligence Group, the precursor to the CIA, and was assigned to work at the US Embassy in Belgium. It was right after the war. Belgium and other nations in Europe were still devastated. It was hard to find an apartment that had a coal heater that you could get coal on occasion to heat, because ration cards were still being used.

But for 2 years in Europe and then 3 years here in Washington, this young lady from Roanoke, VA, served her country.

We had heard in my family these stories, but vaguely, because Jinks was of an age where you didn't talk about the fact that you had worked for an intelligence agency, even if it was 60 or 70 years ago.

But upon her death right before Christmas, we found letters squirreled

away in the attic, and we spent much of the Christmas holidays reading letters that she wrote to her parents in the 1940s from Brussels—coded, yes, and a little bit diplomatic, but talking about the work that she was doing for her country.

Some who know the history of the CIA know that in that period, in the Cold War, the United States had all kinds of agents around Europe. What Jinks's job was in Brussels was to take reports from them and then help cable those back to the United States. When she came back to the United States, she worked at the CIA for a very famous founder of the Agency, a guy named James Jesus Angleton. Angleton was one of the founders of the CIA and became kind of famous—really infamous—because he was in charge of counterespionage, figuring out were there people within the CIA who were actually Soviet agents who were informing on the United States. They played a critical role early in figuring out, for example, that MI6 agents, including Kim Philby, were spying for the Soviet Union while they were working with MI6 in Washington. These were the stories at the time my mother-in-law was there.

That was just the first chapter of my mother-in-law's public service. I was inspired, Mr. President, as you talked about MARCY, because my mother-in-law never held office, but she was a public servant.

A year ago almost exactly, I took to the floor to offer a tribute to my father-in-law who was a pivotal, history-making Governor of Virginia who was most known for integrating Virginia public schools when they had been segregated for so long. I can assure you that was a joint project. That was not just my father-in-law Linwood Holton. That was he and his wife Jinks.

They got married in Roanoke in the mid-1950s, and they embarked upon a joint project, which was to make Virginia a competitive two-party State. The Democrats ran everything in Virginia, and it was a very different Democratic Party—Dixiecrats—that believed very much in White supremacy and segregation.

But together with his wife Jinks, my mother-in-law, they decided to help build a two-party democracy in Virginia, and they hoped that the Republican Party would be the racially progressive antidote—opposite—contrary to the segregation of the Democrats.

She supported Linwood when he ran for the Virginia House of Delegates in Roanoke and lost in the 1950s. He came close. He ran 2 years later and was on the verge of victory when Eisenhower sent National Guard troops in to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, and Republican fortunes tanked in the South that year. He lost again.

He was the Republican Party nominee for Governor in 1965, and Jinks was one of his best campaign assets. He lost that race, but the fact that a Republican could even get 35 percent was